



CANYONS OF THE SOUTHWEST

While the Grand Canyon is undoubtedly the world's most famous, the southwest states of the U.S. boast many others which pack a rare punch.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



North America, USA



14 days from AU\$16,660 pp



Private

Journey Overview

While the Grand Canyon is undoubtedly the world's most famous canyon, the Southwest states of the US boast many of wild and woolly beauty. Carved through solid rock by winding rivers, these ancient natural formations are sculpturally breathtaking and on this active journey through Arizona, Utah and Nevada you'll discover the most impressive on a fully immersive dive into the wilderness. Seek out the wildlife and botanical attractions of these desert ecosystems and hike along rugged trails to panoramic viewpoints, before finishing your adventure in the bright lights of 'Vegas'.

Journey Highlights

- Travel off-road by jeep to ancient cliff dwellings
- Discover the Grand Canyon on foot and from the air
- Drift through Glen Canyon on the waters of the Colorado River
- Admire the extraordinary Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks on foot



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Phoenix, Arizona

Upon arrival into the thriving desert metropolis of Phoenix, collect your rental car (not included) and drive the short distance to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure.

Royal Palms Resort & Spa

Day 2: Scottsdale

Spend the day at leisure exploring Scottsdale your way. Your options are plentiful. Spot palm-sized hummingbirds on a hike in the Sonoran Desert. Experience the grandeur of UNESCO World Heritage site Taliesin West designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Listen to the 'language of the soul' at the culture-rich Musical Instruments Museum. Wander the historic and artistic sights of the Old Town. Or simply relax in a private cabana at your hotel's luxurious bi-level pool.

Royal Palms Resort & Spa / Meals: B

Day 3: Scottsdale - Sedona

This morning you are free to relax at the resort before driving north through the brilliant shades and shifting hues of the Arizona landscape to Sedona.

Enchantment Resort / Meals: B

Day 4: Sedona

This morning join your guide on an exploratory jeep tour of the canyons surrounding Sedona. This archaeological adventure begins with a short drive on a paved yet primitive forest service road to the Honanki Heritage Site, a 700-year old Sinaguan cliff dwelling. Your guide will reveal the history of the site and explain the hidden meaning found in the rock art. Walk through the ancient cliff dwellings and be informed along the way about Native American history, geology, flora, fauna and other interesting facts about the area. Return to the resort with the afternoon at leisure to enjoy a spa treatment or continue exploring on your own.

Enchantment Resort / Meals: B

Day 5: Sedona - Tusayan

Drive two hours to Grand Canyon National Park through the desert canyons that are so characteristic of Arizona and stop in historic Flagstaff on Route 66, surrounded by ponderosa pine forests. Arrive at Grand Canyon Airport for a helicopter flightseeing tour over the canyon with a fully narrated aerial tour from your pilot-guide. This is a dramatic and stunning way to see this spectacular geological marvel.

The Squire Inn at the Grand Canyon / Meals: B

Day 6: Grand Canyon

Meet your private guide this morning for a hike around the canyon rim and along little-used trails into the canyon itself. Enjoy insights along the way on the history, geology, flora and fauna of the area and this afternoon your guide will introduce you to the historic lodges and buildings on the rim of the canyon, including the studio of photography pioneers Emery and Ellsworth Kolb. Lunch is included at the historic El Tovar Hotel.

The Squire Inn at the Grand Canyon / Meals: BL

Day 7: Tusayan - Page

Continue your road trip north towards the Utah border to Page, on the shores of Lake Powell. In the afternoon, take to the Colorado River on a float trip around extraordinary Glen Canyon. Marvel at the astonishing rock formations and the fascinating artefacts of Petroglyph Beach. Gaze in awe at the soaring cliffs above Horseshoe Bend and learn the stories of the ancestral Puebloan people who lived here. Afterwards, journey by coach back from Lees Ferry to Page, passing Vermillion Cliffs, beautiful orchards, and historic structures along the way.

Hyatt Place Page/Lake Powell / Meals: B

Day 8: Page

Join your guide this morning as you drive deep into the canyons surrounding Lake Powell. Hike into a sunset-hued, 18-metre deep slot canyon and admire the beautiful and unique natural features created from millions of years of erosion. Accept photographic tips from your guide as you hike through the canyon on flat, sandy terrain and take time for peaceful reflection enjoying the solitude without the crowds.

Hyatt Place Page/Lake Powell / Meals: B

Day 9: Page - Bryce Canyon - Sprindale

Cross the Utah state line and continue further north to Bryce Canyon National Park. This afternoon, enjoy a guided half day hike at Bryce Canyon where the otherworldly landscape of tall, thin, rocky pinnacles (or hoodoos) is mesmerising. Your guide will explain how the forces of wind and water have created them as you traverse the park. After your tour, drive two hours south to check into your lodge in Springdale, your base for exploring Zion National Park over the next few days.

Cliffrose Springdale / Meals: B

Day 10: Tropic - Zion National Park - Springdale

Rise early for the drive west to Springdale where you join your private guide for a stunning half day tour of Zion National Park. Hike through the park to incredible look-out points while your guide interprets the local flora, fauna, geology and history as you go. Take in Zion's spectacular rock formations including the Three Patriarchs, Cathedral Mountain and Checkerboard Mesa. Zion's sedimentary rock layers continue to be eroded by the forces of wind and water to this day, revealing the iconic red and coral hues of the Southwest. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore at leisure.

Cliffrose Springdale / Meals: B

Day 11: Zion National Park

Today is yours to explore your own way. We recommend visiting Springdale, the gateway community at the western entrance to the park. Established in 1862, Springdale became home to the first settlers of European descent and there is a profusion of galleries, shops and eateries to explore. Or take the free shuttle bus on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive and stop by the Zion Human History Museum.

Cliffrose Springdale / Meals: B

Day 12: Springdale - Las Vegas, Nevada

Enjoy a morning at leisure before driving on to Las Vegas and your hotel situated in the heart of 'the Strip'.

Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas / Meals: B

Day 13: Las Vegas

The day is yours to marvel at the sights and sounds of 'Vegas', entertainment capital of the world. Stroll 'the Strip' surrounded by neon signs. Check out the dancing fountains of the Bellagio, the Atlantis animatronic spectacle at Caesars Palace, and the volcanic 'eruptions' at the Mirage. Or, for those looking to escape the sensory overload, head out of town to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in the Mojave Desert where there are hiking trails, picnic areas and a nature centre. This evening take the opportunity of seeing one of Vegas' world-famous shows such as Mystere (Cirque du Soleil) at Treasure Island, Blue Man Group at Monte Carlo, La Reve at Wynn, O (Cirque du Soleil) at Bellagio or Mac King Comedy & Magic at Harrah's.

Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas / Meals: B

Day 14: Depart Las Vegas

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and drive to the Las Vegas Airport. Return your rental car and check in for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Note

This journey is designed to tie in with car rental that needs to be organised separately. Alternatively, we can provide a vehicle with a driver/guide.

Contact us to discuss your requirements.

Map



Accommodation

Enchantment Resort, Sedona



Enchantment Resort is surrounded by the unique natural beauty that makes up the Southwest desert. Each room offers viewing decks overlooking Boynton Canyon and the magnificent mountains. The spa, Mii amo presents a unique, full-service spa experience and takes its name from the Native American word for journey. This is a perfect place to stargaze at night, with clear skies and a perfect climate.

Why we like it

- Surrounded by mysterious red rock formations
- Set on 70 acres of panoramic natural terrain
- The spa is inspired by the traditions of Native American People
- Perfect choice for the active with plenty of hiking trails and guided walks
- Private decks and patios overlooking the grandeur of Boynton Canyon lives up to the saying 'room with a view'

The Squire Inn at the Grand Canyon



Located close to the South Rim entrance to Grand Canyon National Park, The Squire Inn at the Grand Canyon offers spacious, comfortable accommodations and three on-site restaurants. The Squire Inn is the ideal location for families at the Grand Canyon, with a family game room, bowling alley, indoor and outdoor pools open year-round and two hot tubs.

Cliffrose Springdale



Bordering Zion National Park along the Virgin River, the Cliffrose Springdale is a delightful riverside boutique resort with comfortable and relaxing rooms, suites and villas boasting stunning national park or garden views. The Cliffrose Café and Bar provides an excellent menu, with the opportunity to eat out on the terrace. The resort has a seasonal heated outdoor pool, a waterfall hot tub, guest BBQs, fire pits and a beach along the Virgin River.

Waldorf Astoria, Las Vegas



The Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas is quite different to any other hotel in the city. The lobby and check-in are on the 23rd floor in the 'sky lobby'. Unlike other hotels, it doesn't have a casino. The environment is therefore one of calm, serenity and civility, allowing you to feel far from the madding crowd. The hotel is perfect if you want to have a taste of Las Vegas but also want the chance of some quiet relaxation surrounded by absolute luxury when the casinos, shows and bright lights have all been experienced.

Why we like it

- Located in the heart of the Las Vegas 'strip'
- A sophisticated non-gaming hotel. An oasis within the city
- High level rooms provide wonderful views over the desert and Vegas
- An impressive two storey spa, featuring exotic treatments
- Unique tea lounge with teas from all over the world, complete with a Zen like atmosphere

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